



WORSHIP

Combined Service

July 19, 2026

It's music that finds its way deep into your soul because it's strings vibrating against wood and nothing else.
~ Alison Krauss

THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

First Pres Bluegrass: Tom Bowling, Andy Danckers, Jillian Frey, Ed Koehler, Leslie Koehler, Kirk Townander

WELCOME

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

❖ SONGS OF PRAISE

Down In the River to Pray
Keep on the Sunnyside of Life

Traditional
Ada Blankenhorn / J. Howard Entwisle

1. There's a dark and a troubled side of life
There's a bright and a sunnyside, too
Though we meet with the darkness and strife
The sunnyside we also may view

2. Though the storm in its fury break today
Crushing hopes that we cherish so dear
Storm and cloud will in time pass away
The sun again will shine bright and clear (**Chorus**)

Chorus:

Keep on the sunnyside, always on the sunnyside
Keep on the sunnyside of life
It will help us every day, it will brighten up our day
If we keep on the sunnyside of life

3. Let us greet with a song of hope each day
Though the moments be cloudy or fair
Let us trust in our savior always
Who keepeth everyone in his care (**Chorus**)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Renewing the Call of God's Grace

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ The Apostle's Creed

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Ghost?

People: I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Presentation

Session Elder Matt Gibson

Commitment and Covenant

Baptism

Welcome and Blessing

Charge to the Congregation and Parents

SONG OF BLESSING

I Saw the Light

Hank Williams

1. I wander so aimless, life filed with sin
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Chorus:

I saw the light, I saw the light
No more in darkness, no more in night
And now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

2. Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light **(Chorus)**
3. I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the light **(Chorus)**

THE WORD

An NRSV pew Bible is available for your convenience. You may access other versions using your mobile device at biblegateway.com.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 86:11-17 (NRSVue)

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NRSVue)

SERMON

Wheat, Weeds and Waiting

Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

❖ **SONG OF AFFIRMATION**

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

James Milton Black

1. When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,
and time shall be no more.
And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair;
when the saved of earth shall gather
over on the other shore
and the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

Chorus:

When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

2. Let us labor for the Master
From the dawn till setting sun,
let us talk of all His wondrous love and care;
then when all of life is over,
and our work on earth is done,
and the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there. **(Chorus)**
3. On that bright and cloudless morning
when the dead in Christ shall rise,
and the glory of His resurrection share;
when His chosen ones shall gather
to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there. **(Chorus)**

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND RESOURCES

OFFERTORY

Why Me, Lord?
First Pres Bluegrass

Kris Kristofferson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SESSION REPORT

Elder Carol Braunschweig

TABLE TALK

THE SENDING

❖ **SONG OF THE PEOPLE #465**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven/Charles Converse

❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

❖ **MUSICAL RESPONSE**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
First Pres Bluegrass

❖ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Ministers	The Congregation
Officers	The Session and the Board of Deacons
Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Pastoral Resident	Alex Barnes, M.Div.
Music, Department Head	Gloria Song, M.Mus.

*A complete list of our staff team is found at FirstPresLibertyville.org
Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley is away this week.*

Community Notes

Our full Church Calendar & Parish Life Newsletter are available at www.firstpreslibertyville.org

Flower dedication: The blue rose on the chancel is in joyous celebration of the birth of Colton Henry Vezina, son of Alyssa and Dillon Vezina, born on June 23, 2026. Grandmother is Renee Gembra.

Sunday, July 19 - Bluegrass Sunday

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM — Courtyard Cookout (Social Hall & Courtyard)

Wednesday, July 22

- 4:00 PM — PADS Food Donation Drop-Off (Sanctuary Entrance)

Sunday, July 29 - Flower Fest “Bring a Bouquet Sunday”

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Chapel)
- 11:00 AM — Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)

Looking Ahead

- August 9 — Blessing of the Backpacks & Congregational Meeting
- August 15 — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
- August 22 — Confirmation Retreat
- August 30 — Summer Book Read Discussion
- September 1 — Summer Book Read Discussion via Zoom
- September 13 — Rally Day

Today: Church Cookout

The Deacons are hosting an all-church cookout featuring grilled hot dogs, watermelon, and more. We hope you'll stay and join us!

Interim Associate Pastor Announcement

We are delighted to announce that **Rev. Nanette Sawyer** has been called to serve as our new **Interim Associate Pastor**, beginning on **Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 13**. Rev. Sawyer is coming to us from Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. She brings extensive experience in transitional ministry, interfaith engagement, and building strong, caring communities. See *Parish Life* for the full announcement.

Flower Fest: Bring a Bouquet to Church – Next Sunday, July 26

Do you have summer flowers blooming in your garden? Bring a bouquet—big or small, simple or fancy—to help decorate the chapel for worship on July 26. Just place your blooms in a vase and drop it off at the chapel narthex between 9:40 and 9:50 AM. After the service, take your bouquet back home to keep enjoying it, or pass it along to a friend!

Register your kids for fall!

Visit firstpreslibertyville.org to register for Sunday School, music programs, kids' groups, and youth group with one easy form! Please register by July 24 so we can line up volunteers and classrooms for a great September!

Help Our Sunday School Thrive

A vibrant Sunday School program helps our children grow in faith while showing families who are searching for a church home that they are welcomed, valued, and loved. If you've been looking for a meaningful way to serve, please prayerfully consider volunteering in our Sunday School or Caregiving ministry. Your time and presence make a lasting difference in the lives of our children and help create a warm, welcoming community for every family. Please visit our website or click the links in Parish Life to sign up. Questions? Give Megan a call at 847-362-2174 or email office@boxp.net.

Summer Book Read

Readers age 14 and up are invited to join the First Pres Summer Book Read! This year we're reading two books that retell the story of Huckleberry Finn from a new vantage point: the bestselling novel "James" by Percival Everett and the graphic novel "Big Jim and the White Boy" by David F. Walker and Marcus Kwame Anderson. We'll gather to discuss both books in person on Sunday, August 30 from 11:30 AM–12:45 PM, and over Zoom on Tuesday, September 1 from 7–8:15 PM.

God's Gardeners: Help Feed Our Neighbors

Come lend a hand in the CARE Garden! Located on Winchester Road just east of Route 45, the garden is a partnership between First Presbyterian Church and The Chapel. Volunteers gather Saturdays, weather permitting, from 8:30–10:30 AM to plant, weed, and care for the garden that provides fresh produce for our community. We also need volunteers on Friday, August 14 and Friday, September 18 to pick, wash, pack, and deliver fresh produce to the church in preparation for Mobile Food Pantry days. Bring a friend—it takes a village to feed a village! To join the God's Gardeners email list or learn more, contact Amy S. at godsgardenersfpc@gmail.com.

Podcasts

Sunday sermons and our *Anywhere Anytime Bible* podcasts are available on the listening platform of your choice.

Flower Dedications

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion with a beautiful floral arrangement in our worship spaces on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$45. Fill out the form on our website or call the church office.

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

To reach the church office, please call 847-362-2174 or email office@boxp.net.

Office hours are Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM.

Pastoral Emergencies

If you are a church member and need to reach a pastor in an emergency, please call 847-367-6460.

Leave a message, and a pastor will return your call as soon as possible.